

NCA
VOC FOR PGM/FN
BACKGROUND NO. 5-6033
JOHN BUE

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AFRICAN-COMMON MARKET MEETING

ANNCR:

A ONE - DAY MEETING EARLIER THIS WEEK (ON MONDAY) IN BRUSSELS OF THE LOME CONVENTION -- AN ASSOCIATION OF THE COMMON MARKET AND 53 DEVELOPING NATIONS IN AFRICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE PACIFIC, HIGHLIGHTED CONTINUING QUESTIONS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS. VOA'S JOHN BUE HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

THE PROBLEMS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE SO-CALLED "NORTH - SOUTH DIALOGUE" BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS ON FUTURE WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS. THE CONVENTION SIGNED THREE YEARS AGO IN LOME, TOGO, RUNS UNTIL THE END OF THE DECADE AND IS A LARGER AND BROADER VERSION OF ONES CONCLUDED EARLIER IN YAOUNDE, CAMEROON BETWEEN A SIX-NATION COMMON MARKET AND FRANCO-PHONE AFRICAN STATES.

LOME ADDED TO THE YAOUNDE PARTNERS, THE MAIN ANGLO-PHONE AFRICAN STATES AS WELL AS SMALL STATES FROM THE CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC REGIONS. IT EMBODIES A COMPLICATED BUT UNIQUE STABILIZATION SYSTEM FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS' EXPORT INCOMES. AT ONE TIME, DURING THE PROTRACTED NORTH - SOUTH DISCUSSIONS, COMMON MARKET OFFICIALS HOPED IT MIGHT SERVE AS A KIND OF MODEL FOR A WORLDWIDE DEAL BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. BUT THIS IDEA WAS NEVER SERIOUSLY TAKEN UP BY EITHER OF THE TWO GROUPS, AND THE ASSOCIATION IS TO BE RENEGOTIATED AS A DEAL BETWEEN THE COMMON MARKET AND THOSE STATES WHICH HAVE TIES WITH ITS MEMBER NATIONS.

JUDGING BY A ONE DAY SESSION HELD IN BRUSSELS ON MONDAY, SOMETHING OF THE SPIRIT OF THE NORTH - SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS BEEN INJECTED IN THE RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WANT MORE AID AND TRADE FACILITIES QUICKLY. THE COMMON MARKET NATIONS WANT A MORE LEISURELY APPROACH. THEIR SPOKESMAN, WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HANS - DIETRICH GENSCHER, TOLD THE MEETING THE LOME CONVENTION HAS PROVED ITS WORTH AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL THEREFORE NOT DEAL WITH SWEEPING CHANGES, BUT WITH ADJUSTMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

BUT IN CONTRAST WITH THIS CAUTIOUS APPROACH, JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PERCIVAL PATTERSON, SPEAKING FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY LOME PARTNERS, SAID A NEW CONVENTION MUST REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AS LOME DID THREE YEARS AGO. HE INDICATED THAT DEVELOPING NATIONS EXPECT THE EXTENSION OF THE STABILIZATION SYSTEM TO INCLUDE SUCH PRODUCTS AS COPPER, IRON, ORE AND TOURISM, AS WELL AS INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND HELP IN BUILDING UP THE DEVELOPING NATION'S' MERCHANT MARINES.

COMMON MARKET EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN ROY JENKINS AND MISTER GENSCHER PROPOSED NEW EUROPEAN AID FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING SOLAR ENERGY, FOR THE PROMOTION OF TRADE AND FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE DEVELOPING NATIONS SPOKESMAN ANGRILY TURNED DOWN A EUROPEAN SUGGESTION THAT THE NEW CONVENTION EMBODY A CLAUSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND A SPECIAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEE ARRANGEMENT. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, WOULD JEOPARDIZE INVESTMENTS FROM NON-COMMON MARKET INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. THE RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO START IN EARNEST IN MID-SEPTEMBER WITH A HOPED FOR AGREED TEXT BY MAY NEXT YEAR. MONDAY'S VERBAL CLASHES DO NOT, OF COURSE, RULE OUT CONCESSIONS ON BOTH SIDES, BUT THEY DO FORESHADOW SOME

TIGHT BARGAINING FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE COMMON MARKET'S NEXT
ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT.

WJL/PY